Rte. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
9/20/75

Mr. Art Kevin
10858 Fruitland Drive
Studio City, Ca. 91604

Dear Art,

This is an unusual request: that you do your customary good job on developing a story and either not use it or use only part of it. I'll explain why.

The ripoff season is in full swing again. I won't go into all of it but if we had facilities or if he had time Lesar would have filed suits long before this. Our inability may encourage more. It is one of the costs of poverty and over commitment.

A three-part series begin in the WxStar yesterday, with the editors of the New Republic and Tad Szulc. Jim phoned me about it. He and the National Enquirer, to which I have sold ancillary rights to parts of Post Mortem, will be getting me copies as this appears in the Star. I've not had much time to think about this but I rather suspect there may be some syndication.

From what Jim told me, all I know, the first part is a probably legal ripoff of the last two transcripts I brought out of suppression plus a duplicating effort to get those I've filed suit for plus the leak of some of what I have under appeal at the CIA and by the Archives, CIA or both.

When I was hot on gut stuff before there have been these leaks. I have a case in Post Mortem. In confidence until printing, it was where they used Fred Graham, then of the NYTimes, to angle a story the way they wanted on what they forced on him after denying it to me. It came out as a viciously anti-RFK story.

This stuff deals with Oswald as an agent. There is from my recent work ample reason to believe that there is internecine warfare between the FBI and CIA on this.

I was able to figure out and have already written Lesar who filed the suit a memo indicating what has to be in what I'm suing for. (I never sue without substantial reason to believe I know the answers I should get.)

Since ~~early~~ April or early May CIA and Archives have been stonewalling me. My requests have been proper and explicit and just not responded to as required by the law. (Whether technically they have not violated the law I don't know but in fact both agencies have on this.) Now suddenly a non-expert, Szulc, has some of this stuff, including knowledge of contents denied me, the part I'd figured out accurately.

In addition, so you can better understand what I have in mind. Jim and I have already partly demanded of courts restitution of costs and we plan to do this more when we can. The amended law makes this legally possible, specifically, and the earlier state of my research, under the old law, as of four or five years ago, provided a basis.

In addition to this, I had made offers to the New Republic's new owner in January on the ttanscript he is now using and I had made demands for rectification of a defamation of me based over the second transcript in a letter of May 2. So, there is less than innocence in the joint use by both of both transcripts without mention of me or how they were brought out of suppression. This may be without legal significance but the ethics and morals ought be apparent.

Now what I want to do is try to establish how this all came about at just this time. I have some of the Nosenko stuff in this book. I had more but edited it out and plan to use it in the available space in the appendix after the index is done and lets me know the space I have for it. My reasons for wanting to know how this all came about and at this particular time have to do with establishing that these same finks inside the government are working against me and improperly. It is improper for them to leak what I have gone after through the Archives. It is bound to respect my scholarly rights and not to release or feed to others what I am working on.

What I have in mind is your calling Szulc or the New Republic and asking for the series for use as a newscast ar a series of them. You may find this is justified.

Read the series straight, as though you were really going to do a piece or a series on it. But also read it with an eye toward an independent assessment separate from any you might get from me on who could have fed what to him, how he could have gotten onto it, etc. One thing I'd like to know is could it be a natural outgrowth of following up on these transcripts I got and released.

After you have digested the series thoroughly, I'd like you then to call Szulc (pronounced Schultz) and cater to his ego as much as you can without gagging or turning him off on how a great investigative reporter goes about developing this kind of great stuff. One of the important things to learn is not the names of his sources, which he would never give, but the fact of them and if possible a general indication of how he was able to get such people to trust him and not to disclose who they are, etc. My purpose really is to establish the fact that he was fed, that he was put onto all of this so it would be used in a special way or all the ways it could be used.

In order that you be able to do this with all the independence possible I'm making no suggestions.

The kind of natural questions are the ones to be asked. Like how long did all this take you? When did you start and what were your initial clues? (Without beginning with what I'd gotten already, not only these two transcripts, he had to have done a pretty fair amount of work. He might have gotten this start innocently or might not have. Maybe we can learn.

It can be helpful and in the end it could make a great story as part of a book I have had partly written for years and have longed to return to since filing the firstx of the suits necessary to it. The last, I hope, is filed.

The coincidence of his getting on to this only when I file the second suit and got what would have been the cause of an earlier suit when the government opted to give it to me as an alternative to suit - or after two and a half suits, so to speak, is pretty remarkable. That there have been intrusions into our mail Lesar and I have had reason to believe for some time. This follows upon my writing an explanation to Jim of what part of what we're suing for has to deal with - and when it is not known lo! somebody gave it to Szulc. Specifically, what is hidden and classified TOP SECRET and what I'd figured out and written Jim about long enough ago so that it could have been the cause of turning Szulc on if intercepted and fed to him.

I hope you can find the time to spend some time on this and to ask the kinds of questions that might develop a real record. That you are a radio reporter of course is all the reason you need for taping, so please tape and let him know you may want to use excerpts if you do a series. You may want to anyway, sooner or later. If and when you do, please take all the time possible, letting him talk, leading him to boast and blah (you know in his career he has to have developed some fine sources) and tell you exactly how great an investigative reporter he is. And how he does i all this spectacular work nobody else can do. Etc.etc.etc.

Thanks,

bcc: any suggestions?